In addition to the ongoing Government funding towards population stabilisation, a National Population Stabilisation Fund with a seed money of Rs. 100 crore has been proposed to be set up to specifically aid projects designed to contribute to population stabilisation efforts inclusive of projects for urban slums. Additionally, funds for supplies and equipment essential for meeting the unmet need for contraception could be provided through re-appropriation within existing allocations or by additional resources being made available.

Revision of Royalty Rates of Minerals

*451. SHRI VIKRAM VERMA:
SHRI B. J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a growing demand by various States for revision of royalty rates of different minerals;

(b) if so, the details of demand made in various fora / representations received from different States in that regard;

(c) the action initiated thereon; and

(d) by when the new royalty rates of these minerals would be announced?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA): (a) to (d) Under the provisions of Section 9(3) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act), the Central Government may amend the Second Schedule to the Act so as to enhance or reduce the rates at which royalty shall be payable in respect of major minerals (minerals other than minor minerals defined under Section 3(e) of the MMDR Act) with effect from such date, as may be specified in the notification, provided that Central Government shall not enhance the rates of royalty in respect of any mineral more than once during any period of three years. the State Government approach the Central Government from time to time for revising the rates of royalty on minerals. While revising the rates of royalty on minerals as per provisions of the MMDR Act, 1957, *inter-alia,* the suggestions of the State Governments are considered by the Government.

The provisions of MMDR Act do not stipulate any specific periodicity for carrying out revision of royalty rates. The rates of royalty for major minerals (other than coal and lignite) were last revised by the Government in 1997.

The Ministry of Mines had constituted a Study Group on 5.10.1998 for recommending revision of rates of royalty on major minerals (other than coal, lignite and sand for stowing). The Study Group has submitted its report in March, 2000. Action has already been taken to process the Report as per law.

G.G.H.S. Dispensary, Janakpuri

*452. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the sanctioned strength of doctors for Ayurvedic dispensary No. 61 in Janakpuri-I;

(b) whether it is a fact that full strength of doctors is hardly available, thereby causing inconvenience to those card holders who visit that dispensary for treatment;

(c) the number of working days during the last three years when full strength was there and number of such days when there was depleted strength; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) The sanctioned strength of doctors for CGHS Ayurvedic dispensary, Janakpuri, is three.

(b) From the available strength of doctors with CGHS, two doctors are posted at Janakpuri Ayurvedic dispensary. No complaint about inconvenience to the CGHS beneficiaries due to shortage of doctors has been registered.

(c) Ayurvedic dispensary, Janakpuri, started functioning with effect from 20.1.2000 and the details from 20.1.2000 to 31.7.2000 are as under:—

No. of working days	:	158
Total days of leave avail of/Relieving duty performed in other Units in case of exigencies	:	66
Days of full strength of doctors	:	92

(d) In view of (b) above and in view of the fact that the dispensary was started only 6 months earlier, the question does not arise.